DEMOCRATIC

GERMAN REPORT

VOL. II NO. 2 JANUARY 16th 1953 Price: 15 Pf., 5 c., 3 d

ANTI-SEMITISM?

The newspapers of the western world are full of wild accusations of "anti-Semitism in East Germany". What is the truth?

The Constitution of the German Democratic Republic states quite clearly in Article 6:

"All citizens are equal before the law. Manifestations of religious hatred, race hatred or national hatred, militaristic propaganda, warmongering, and all other acts which offend against this equality are criminal acts...

"Anyone who has been punished for committing these crimes may not be employed in a leading position in the public service, or in economic and cultural life. The right to vote and to be elected is forfeited."

And these words are not just pious wishes. They are very severely applied, and isolated instances of anti-Semitism, whether in the form of public insults to Jews, or in the form of the desecration of Jewish cementeries, or in any other form, have been punished with the full severity of the law.

DOES THAT LOOK LIKE ANTI-SEMITISM?

The authorities in East Germany are not content with punishing anti-Semitism very severely. All methods of publicity, the press, the radio and the film, have been used to counter the racial propaganda spread by the nazis for so many years. In the schools the young generation learn about the crimes committed by Hitler against the Jews and other peoples, and learn to regard all peoples as equal. Here are a few sentences from page 232 and 233 of the history textbook, published in Berlin in 1952, used by the fourteen-year olds in all the schools of the German Democratic Republic.

"In order to prepare for the enslavement of other nations, the nazis used racialist propaganda.

"The German people were persuaded that they were supermen, destined to rule over other races... The racialist propaganda was directed in particular against the Jews and the Slav peoples... The desecration of Jewish cemeteries and synagogues became a daily occurrence in Hitlerite Germany...

"The fascist terror against the Jewish people began with racialist propaganda, and ended with the slaughter of millions of Jews in the extermination camps. About five million of the 9.5 million Jews in Europe were murdered."

DOES THAT LOOK LIKE ANTI-SEMITISM?

On September 30th 1952, Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl wrote to the President of the Jewish Communities in the German Democratic Republic, stating:

"The Government of the German Democratic Republic struggles together with all peaceable Germans for... the re-establishment of a united, independent and peace-loving Germany. By these means the Government is taking steps to see to it that the crimes committed by fascism can never be repeated..."

The German Democratic Republic has taken special measures to care for all victims of fascism, including those persecuted for racial reasons.

Large grants have been made for the restoration of synagogues and other buildings destroyed by the nazis.

DOES THAT LOOK LIKE ANTI-SEMITISM?

What incident have the western newspapers exploited to supply the excuse for their allegations of anti-Semitism?

In the recent Prague trial of a gang of traitors and American agents, a former prominent official of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany was stated to have had connections with the gang.

On January 4th 1953, the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party published a resolution confirming that this man had been a "subject of the United States financial oligarchs".

The resolution dealt very fully with his past record, and showed that he had had close links with Zionism, a Jewish political movement which has developed into an agency of American imperialism.

Quotations from his writings in past years showed that he had demanded the return to big Jewish capitalists of their confiscated factories. The German workers, who now own and run these enterprises on a Socialist basis, have of course no intention of returning them to the former exploiters, whether they were Catholics, Protestants, Jews or Atheists.

But the western press overlooks the real anti-Semitism rife in West Germany.

Scarcely a week passes without news of the release from prison of unreconstructed war criminals who participated in the racialist murders of the nazis, desecrating Jewish cemeteries is a regular "sport" in some West German towns; firms with "Jewish-sounding" names hasten to assure customers that theirs is an "Aryan" concern; the firms which made the gas for Auschwitz are back at work, making bigger profits than ever.

THIS IS REAL ANTI-SEMITISM.

In the weeks and months to come, the western press is likely to continue and to step-up its slanders about East Germany, and the allegations about anti-Semitism are likely to play a large part in this campaign.

The British and American people, who fought shoulder to shoulder with the Soviet people against Hitler and his murder gangs eight years ago, have a real hatred of anti-Semitism and racialism. The war propagandists want to exploit this hatred, and to use it to win the support of people in the western world for a new war against the Soviet Union, the People's Democracies, and the German Democratic Republic.

DON'T LET YOURSELF BE FOOLED!

SPY CENTRES STILL FLOURISH IN WEST BERLIN

Soviets Repeat Ban Demand

General Chuikov, Chairman of the Soviet Control Commission in Germany, has repeated his demand for the immediate banning of criminal organisations in West Berlin which organise espionage and terrorism in East Germany.

The first such demand was addressed to the three western High Commissioners on October 1st 1952 in a letter from General Chuikov. He gave the names and addresses of five such organisations in West Berlin together with details of their activities, which included arson, kidnapping, blowing up of railway bridges, and murder.

Crimes Normal

On November 3rd the western High Commissioners replied, declining to take any action, and describing the crimes committed as "actions which are regarded as a normal element of daily life in democratic countries."

In his new request, sent at the end of December 1952, General Chuikov stated:

"The State Security services of the German Democratic Republic have ascertained that the espionage and sabotage organisations named are continuing with their criminal activities.

"In the middle of October a nine-man gang of members of the criminal organisation 'Fighting Group against Inhumanity' was arrested in Dresden. The members of this gang were in possession of explosives, incendiary bombs, and poison. They confessed that they had been given the task of carrying out arson and causing explosions in the Dresden railway system.

British Spies

"In the same month a criminal group was arrested in Erfurt which, acting on the orders of the so-called 'East Bureau of the Christian Democratic Union' had been carrying out espionage and acts of diversion in the German Democratic Republic. They confessed that they had also received instructions from two members of the British Intelligence Service.

"New terrorist and espionage organisations have been formed in West Berlin recently. They include a centre situated at 7 Limonen Strasse in the American sector under the leadership of Janke (alias 'Wagner' and 'Siegfried') and Vogelsang (alias 'Ruda'). This organisation which is directed by an American spy named Dolly, has made preparations to blow up bridges in the area of Magdeburg and Anklam.

"A so-called 'Committee for the Liberation of the Victims of Totalitarianism" has been established at 156 Bundes Allee in the British Sector of Berlin under the leadership of Fisher, an employee of the American Intelligence Service, and a certain Rank (alias 'Kranz'). This organisation aims at committing acts of sabotage in the German Democratic Republic.

"The West Berlin newspapers, which are under the control of the American, British and French occupation authorities, print direct instructions for harmful activity against the German Democratic Republic. The 'Tagesspiegel' which is controlled by the American authorities, printed on October 23rd an article by the spy and agent Hildebrandt, recommending agents of West Berlin criminal organisations to smuggle themselves into leading positions in the government of the German Democratic Republic, to disorganise the work of the administration, to circulate forged instructions, and to damage production, trade and planning."

Gang Attacks

In his note General Chuikov then referred to the notorious activities of the murder gang of the "Federation of German Youth" in West Germany, and continued:

"In September this year a terrorist group directed from the West Berlin offices of the Federation of German Youth situated at 11 Dernburg Strasse, British Sector, was arrested in Haldensleben, where they had made terrorist attacks on the local committee of the National Front of Democratic Germany.

"Confessions made by members of the Federation of German Youth arrested by the State Security Service of the German Democratic Republic confirm reports in the West German press that this organisation was founded and is financed by the American occupation authorities.

"The remarks made by U. S. High Commissioner Donnelly in his note of November 3rd about 'democratic freedoms' and 'human rights' make it necessary to emphasise that it is just in West Germany that these rights are brutaly violated. This is proved by such facts as the attack with fire-arms upon the German youth demonstration in Essen, the prohibition of progressive newspapers, the persecution of friends of peace, and the banning of organisations which fight for the peace, unity and independence of Germany.

W. German Black Lists

"In West Germany politicians and public figures live in constant fear of the arbitrary actions and the terrorism of the West German authorities. The citizens fear that if their political ideas deviate from the official norm, they will then find their names on black-lists. Citizens who have progressive views are dogged by spies, their telephones are tapped and their letters opened.

"At the same time criminal elements such as the Federation of German Youth, the Association of Former SS Men, and so on, are given full freedom of action.

"The Soviet Control Commission underlines its demand for the liquidation of the espionage, diversionist and terrorist organisations established in West Berlin. The Soviet Control Commission holds the American, British and French occupation authorities fully responsible in every way for the results of the criminal activity of these organisations."

Jail for Terrorists

Six members of the notorious American-financed "Federation of German Youth," found guilty of acts of terrorism in the Democratic Sector of Berlin, have been sentenced to long prison sentences by an East German court.

The five young men and the girl involved were guilty of more than 100 separate acts of terrorism on the sector border between East and West Berlin, including brutal attacks on People's Policemen, arson and the damaging of democratic property.

A second trial is pending against one of the terrorists, Oskar Kostrewa, on charges of war crimes. Police investigations have shown that Kostrewa, who was living in West Berlin as a "political refugee," was a member of a nazi murder squad, which slaughtered a group of 100 Soviet civilians in the year 1944.

"FRONT LINE POLICY IN BERLIN KILLED THESE MEN"

— Lord Mayor Friedrich Ebert

The policy of turning West Berlin into a "front-line city" was responsible for the death of the two young policemen, one from West and one from East Berlin, who were killed in shooting incidents during the Christmas week, stated East Berlin Lord Mayor Friedrich Ebert.

He was speaking at the impressive memorial demonstration for Helmut Just, young People's Policeman who was murdered in cold blood on December 30th 1952, a short distance inside the Democratic Sector of Berlin.

His death came five days after the killing of a West Berlin policeman in a shooting incident on the border of the French Sector of Berlin and the surrounding German Democratic Republic.

At the memorial demonstration for Helmut Just, tens of thousands of Berliners from all sectors stood bareheaded in driving snow on Academy Square as Lord Mayor Ebert denounced the West Berlin politicians responsible for the killing.

"Professor Ernst Reuter, who rules in West Berlin, stated on December 19th 'We must really wage the cold war in sectors where we have prospects of success.' He demanded categorically that America should wage her cold war with all means at her disposal even on those sector frontiers in our city which are relatively peaceful.

"Many others have come forward to take the place of Helmut Just, this young People's Policeman. Together we shall carry forward the banner of peace and unity until our country has been re-united in peace and liberty."

The People's Police announced that they had evidence that Helmut Just had been murdered by members of one of the terrorist groups active in West Berlin. The West Berlin police declined to give any help in tracking down the murderers.

The deaths of the two young policemen were only two of the more outstanding incidents provoked along the frontier of West Berlin recently, it was officially announced in East Berlin.

Recent incidents included an attack on a People's Policeman on the evening of December 29th at Glienicke, on the western border of West Berlin; salvoes fired by a party of 40 West Berlin police at Soviet soldiers on border duty in the same area on December 25th; shots fired at People's Police near Sakrow four days earlier; and dozens of other similar attempts to provoke clashes.

65,000 tons of steel more than planned

The steel workers of the German Democratic Republic turned out 65,000 tons of steel above the plan target in the last three months of 1952, it was announced in Berlin.

This great victory was mainly the result of the Socialist emulation contest between the various metalurgical works.

Big money premiums were granted to the factories with best figures. The premiums will be devoted partly to paying bonuses to the workers concerned, and partly for the building of club houses, libraries, swimming pools and other such facilities.

HIS MASTER'S VOICE

"Time is short. **As long as the Bonn Treaties are not ratified there is always the chance that East and West might reach an agreement** at Germany's cost. My mind will only be at rest when the ratification instruments have been exchanged."

West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, quoted in the official American newspaper "NeueZeitung", January 13th 1953.

"Everything is ready. I am only afraid that some swine will turn up with a plan for negotiations at the last minute"

Adolf Hitler at Berchtesgaden on August 22nd 1939, nine days before he attacked Poland.

Nazi General Gives Americans Tips

Rommel's former chief of staff, General Fritz Hermann Bayerlein, has lectured 350 U. S. officers and men of the Second U. S. Tank Division on his experiences on the eastern front against the Soviet Union, the "Army Times" reported. The title of his lecture was "Strategic and tactical use of the tank weapon in Russia in the second world war."

Metal Industries Compete to Honour "Marx Year"

The metal industries of the German Democratic Republic are planning a great Socialist emulation contest to mark the seventieth anniversary of the death of Karl Marx, the great founder of scientific Socialism.

Aims of the contest will be to fulfil and overfulfil the production plan, increase labour productivity and reduce costs.

The Socialist emulation contest will be only one part of the programme for 1953 which is being celebrated as "Karl Marx Year" in East Germany.

In a proclamation issued on January 1st the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party stated:

"No other German has had such an influence on the development of human society as Karl Marx. He was the greatest thinker of his age, breaking through the limitations of the bourgeois horizon to raise science to an unprecedented level. He constructed in a critical spirit on the basis of the greatest achievements of the most advanced nations of the era: classical German philosophy, classical British political economy, and French teachings about the class struggle and Socialism—and on this basis, with the help of his friend Friedrich Engels, he discovered the law of development in nature and society, which we know as dialectical materialism.

"In his economic teachings he laid down the law of development of capitalist methods of production, and in his teachings on the dictatorship of the proletariat he provided the working class with the weapon with which they could overthrow the rule of the last exploiting class, the bourgeoisie, and erect the classless Socialist society.

"Every German must feel proud that it was the German nation which gave humanity Karl Marx, genius and ardent revolutionary, and his comrade in arms, Friedrich Engels.

"The teachings of Marx and Engels, known as Marxism, is the most important cultural heritage of the German nation, a work of culture which has won the greatest respect from all the peoples of the earth."

PROFILES

NEW TENANTS IN THE STALIN ALLEE

Furniture waggons formed queues in East Berlin's Stalin Allee during the first weeks of January as hundreds of families moved into the fine new apartments which have gone up at record speed in this area, once Berlin's worst slum, and after the war Berlin's worst bombed-out area.

"The new apartments are reserved for party functionaries and government officials," scoffed the reports in the western newspapers. Here are the real stories of some of the people who moved in.

KARL WAGENKNECHT, YOUNG ACTIVIST

Youngest of all the new tenants in the Stalin Allee is Karl Wagenknecht, builder's apprentice, one of the men who built the new apartment house into which he has just moved. Karl is only sixteen, but despite this he has won the proud title of "Activist," and has twice been selected as the best worker of his fifteen-man group.

Under supervision of trained bricklayers his apprentice group, together with other groups of young builders, did most of the simple brick work on one whole block of new houses. Often these youth groups laid their bricks quicker and better than men who had been on the job for decades, for they were not so conservative, and were quicker to adopt "two-man" and "three-man" building methods developed in the Soviet Union and Poland.

And the older builders were glad to learn from their young mates, for they all knew that they were building for themselves, and that if they saved money it would go into their own pockets and not the pockets of a speculative builder.

Karl will not move into his new apartment alone, of course. He is very proud to be able to give his parents a bigger and better apartment than they ever dreamed of, as a New Year's present. Until now the three of them had only one room to live in.

Karl Wagenknecht is not content with being a good worker. Twice a week he goes to evening classes to improve his knowledge of mathematics and drawing board work. When his apprenticeship period is over, in May this year, he plans to go to technical college and become a building engineer, so that he can help to build still better houses for all the people who still have to live in cramped and unhealthy apartments.

ELISABETH LUEDICKE, RUBBLE CLEARANCE LABOURER

All her life Frau Elisabeth Luedicke has lived in slums. She was born in a cellar dwelling, where daylight almost never penetrated. Later she married and had two children, but her life was a succession of dingy one-room apartments. In 1943 her husband was killed in Hitler's war, and in the same year the roof of the house where she lived was burned from over her head.

Since that date, although the roof has been provisionally repaired, the walls have always run with damp.

In 1945, after the war ended, Frau Luedicke went to work with a shovel, helping to clear the ruins. She had never learned a trade, and since that date she has earned her living as one of Berlin's many "rubble-women," who block by block are clearing away the ruins of war.

She set an example in her work group by the efficient way she organised the job of clearance, and two years ago she was awarded the Activist badge. Not content with the hard work she was doing every day, she volunteered for extra unpaid rubble work as soon as the National Construction Programme was announced. By devoting every single spare hour to the voluntary work she managed to chalk up the astonishing total of 424 three hour shifts during the year.

"This is like a fairy-tale, where people get rich overnight", said Frau Luedicke, as she moved into her new apartment in the first week of January. She scarcely realised that she, and thousands like her, had been acting as fairy godmothers to themselves.

WALTER KLOSE, TOOL-MAKER

Walter Klose is a middle-aged tool-maker. On a cold January day in 1946, nine months after the end of the war, just released from an American prisoner of war camp, he picked his way over the ruins of what is now Stalin Allee, and turned into the Jessner Strasse, a side street. He saw with horror that No. 42, where he used to live with his wife and two children, was a burned-out shell.

On a wall which was still standing he deciphered a note scrawled in chalk, saying that the Klose family were alive and had moved to 38 Scharnweber Strasse, nearby.

Here he found them, huddled in an unheated room with old newspapers jammed in the empty window frames to keep out the biting wind.

Walter Klose soon found work in his old trade in the Treptow Radio Works, now a nationally owned enterprise. As the years passed life got back to a normal swing again, and a good worker like Klose found no difficulty in earning better wages than ever before, but he was still living huddled together with his family in one room.

When the National Construction Programme began at the beginning of 1952, Klose, who knew by bitter experience the shocking lack of decent housing in Berlin, was one of the first to volunteer for rubble-clearing work. The January days were cold and unattractive, but every evening after work he could be found shovelling away the rubble on the site where the great new houses were soon to grow.

"It is not enough to do just a good day's work in the shops," he told a colleague. "We have got to do more to make up for the past." For Klose himself had been a member of the nazi party for some years, and had recognised that he too was partly responsible for the war and misery which German fascism had brought to the world.

In the course of 1952 he averaged a voluntary shift nearly every single working day—a total of 250 three hour shifts during the year. For this, together with his exemplary work in the factory, he, with his wife and two children, were amongst the happy people who were moving in to a new apartment as 1953 began.

Bread Up in West Germany

Bread prices for the cheapest quality will sky-rocket in West Germany at the beginning of February, it was announced in Bonn. The price of a three pound loaf of black bread will go up from 78 pfennigs to 96 pfennigs.

In East Germany, where average wages are higher, a similar loaf costs only 60 pfennigs.

Coal prices in West Berlin will also be increased by 5 marks per ton in the next few weeks, and electricity prices will rise accordingly.

DID BONN GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL MURDER BRITISH DIPLOMAT?

(Exclusive to GERMAN REPORT)

Correspondence which has come to light in old nazi files in Berlin implicates a leading official in the West German Government in Bonn in the cold-blooded murder of a British Diplomat during World War Two.

In May 1944, Mr Arthur Yenken, then acting British Minister to Franco Spain, crashed to his death in a British plane over Spain, which was neutral territory. The crash was officially explained to have been an accident.

The letter reproduced on this page shows however that the crash was not an accident, and that Arthur Yenken was murdered by a Spaniard named Moreno and a German named Panhorst.

Today this same Dr. Panhorst is a ministerial counsellor in Department Five of the Ministry of Economics in Bonn.

The letter was written on May 22nd 1944 by Wilhelm Faupel, former general and Hitler's first ambassador to Franco Spain, who during the war played a leading part in the ring of nazi agents and spies there.

Here is a translation:

"My dear young friend,

We have finally disposed of the blasted Yenken, the man who was mainly responsible for the recent difficulties in Tangier and Ceuta, and the wolfram business. He is dead, literally clawed out of the sky by Dr Panhorst and Commandante Moreno, and sent straight to hell without involving the Caudillo (Franco, ed.) in diplomatic difficulties. It is only a pity that the stinking Jew Hoare was not sitting in the same plane. General Moscardo is making sure that the results of the investigation will be fixed up to make it look like an 'accident'.

"Please tell my wife that she should let Captain Niebuhr know that I shall be back in 8 or 10 days.

Heil Hitler!
W. Faupel"

The "Hoare" referred to in the letter is the former Sir Samuel Hoare, now Lord Templewood, who was British Ambassador in Spain from 1940 to 1944. In his autobiographical book "Ambassador on Special Mission" published in 1946

WILHELM FAUPEL
General und Botschafter a. D.

Madrid, den 22. Mai 1944

Herrn Generalsekretär
Dr. Hans von Merkatz
B e r l i n - Lankwitz
Lateinamerikanisches Institut

Kurierpost

M.l.junger Freund!

Endlich haben wir den verfluchten Yenken, hauptverantwortlich für die neuerlichen Schwierigkeiten in Tanger und Ceuta sowie beim Wolframgeschäft, zur Strecke gebracht. Er ist tot, von Dr.Panhorst und Comandante Moreno buchstäblich vom Himmel herunter geholt und direkt zur Hölle geschickt, ohne den Caudillo in diplomatische Schwierigkeiten zu verwickeln. Schade nur, daß der Stinkjude Hoare nicht im gleichen Flugzeug gesessen hat. General Moscardó trägt Sorge dafür, daß das Untersuchungsergebnis auf "Unfall" frisiert wird.

Benachrichtigen Sie seine Frau, sie möge Kapitän Niebuhr davon verständigen, daß ich in 8 bis 10 Tagen zurück bin.

H e i l H i t l e r !

W. Faupel

Lord Templewood mentions the death of Yenken with great regret, but makes no suggestion that the "accident" in which he was involved was not really an accident. General Moscardo must have done his work well.

General Faupel's letter is addressed to Dr. Hans von Merkatz, who was at that time General Secretary of the "Latin American Institute" in Berlin, which was the training school for nazi agents in Spanish speaking countries.

Today Merkatz, who was accessory after the fact to the murder of British Diplomat Yenken, is member of the board of the German Party, one of the parties represented in Adenauer's coalition government, and is deputy leader of the German Party group in the West German Parliament. He is one of the most vocal supporters of the Bonn Treaty, which would make a re-armed West Germany the military ally of Britain.

In the West German parliamentary debate on the ratification of the treaty on December 3rd Merkatz stated: "What we have to do now is to settle the question of naming officers, the question of how we shall declare war, and the question of using troops against internal unrest."

Civil servant Dr. Panhorst was responsible not only for the death of Arthur Yenken, but of the Deputy British Air Attache and another British subject who was in the plane with him.

He cannot plead that the killing was an act of war, for it took place in a nominally neutral country, and was directed against an unarmed plane.

Since November 1952 the British authorities in West Germany have been aware that Dr Panhorst was implicated in the killing of three British subjects. So far there has been no report of any action being taken against him.

The conclusion is plain:

Spies and assassins with nazi training are needed for the new war being planned against the German Democratic Republic, the People's Democracies and the Soviet Union.

Letter from China

Dear Ruth Post,

I read your excellent article, "American Mother in Berlin" from Democratic German Report (July 18th 1952) and am taking the liberty of writing to you. I am an American mother in New China. So much of what you say of the development and improvement in living conditions in East Germany applies here — though I believe we are even more fortunate here! Improvements go on at such a rate that we just can't keep up. Of course China has the advantage of being largely unified (except for Taiwan) and of being vast and rich.

It seems so good to hear from another American who is bringing her children up with the advantages only a People's Government affords. I am so happy seeing my four small ones growing up here. My husband is a Chinese surgeon and so our children naturally go to Chinese school. They are in primary school still — 2nd. 3rd. and 4th. Grades. Buddy, the eldest at ten and a half, has just recently become a Young Pioneer. How proud he is of his red scarf! The others are 9, 7, and one and a half, the baby being a boy and the two in between girls.

I've been here for 12 years, but how vastly different these past nearly four have been from before! Honestly, in the old days I used to fear very much for how my children would grow up. Now the future is all theirs. Their schools are examples of democracy and their teachers all have new learning.

Here everyone is studying and learning. Even I at 37 have started out in primary school for the language, which like most foreigners, I never learned before. I spent four months in the first grade and now am going to school every day in the second. It's such fun and certainly rewarding as not only a means of learning the language but as a most worthwhile organization to belong to. It's an adult spare-time school and for women only, this particular one. We've mostly housewives, old and young, but with the common interest of getting a basic education. As you know, most women were denied this right before. I'm the only foreigner in the school but I study on the same basis as the Chinese which I think the most satisfactory way. I suppose you have a good knowledge of German.

Just now on the radio we're hearing the Soviet Red Flag Ensemble performing for a group downtown. From the applause they're certainly receiving an ovation. This is Sino-Soviet Friendship Month and so much gaiety is everywhere, exhibitions, special movies etc.

Well this is a terribly rambling letter. I've been writing while running the washing machine and with Baby Kenny running about and demanding attention. But I hope you'll write to me.

Best regards and a
Merry Christmas by the time this reaches you,
Betty Chandler Chang

118 Kansu Lu
Tientsin 1
China

P. S. Democratic German Report is really a very good paper! B. C.

WEST GERMANS' PLAN ARMY OF 600,000

West Germany is planning an army 600,000 strong, according to figures given by Theodor Blank, Adenauer's "Security Minister," in an interview with the "Soldaten Zeitung," organ of the ex-nazi soldiers.

He told the paper that he would need 40 generals, 250 colonels, 900 lieutenant colonels, 2000 majors, 6300 captains and 12,300 first lieutenants for the new Wehrmacht which would be formed on ratification of the Bonn Treaty. This number of officers would be sufficient for an army of 30 divisions at full war strength, 600,000 strong, military experts estimated.

"In the new army due recognition will be given to devoted service to the old Wehrmacht," Minister Blank stated. "We do not intend to screen officer candidates or take steps against them for their deeds in the past," Blank added.

TURN OUT YOUR ATTICS

This year is being celebrated as Karl Marx Year in East Germany, and we shall be bringing you reports during the year on some of the special celebrations in this connection.

I should like to make a personal appeal to readers in Britain and America to comb their bookshelves and their attics for some of the following articles, which are urgently needed both for the special Karl Marx exhibitions planned and for permanent museum use.

Firstly, naturally, relics of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels themselves, early editions of their works in all languages, and contemporary references to them. Most of such material as still exists is already in museums, of course, but there must still be, for instance, lying around in various places, copies of the "New York Tribune" of the 1850's containing articles by Marx.

Secondly there is great need of general material dealing with the labour movement in Britain from the 1840's to the 1880's, when Marx and Engels were living there. Chartist newspapers, early trade union journals, and pictures of Chartist and radical leaders would be very valuable for the Museum of Germany History in Berlin, which is organising historical research into the life and work of Marx and Engels.

Thirdly odd copies of British Government Blue Books and Board of Trade Journals from the middle of the nineteenth century, and copies of any newspapers published during that period are needed as examples of the sources from which Marx drew the conclusions set out in his classic book "Das Kapital."

If you have any such material, or know where it may be obtained, please write to

John Peet
167 Friedrich Strasse
Berlin W 8
Germany

I shall be pleased to pass on offers to the Museum of German History

Democratic
GERMAN REPORT

Subscription rates: 4 marks, 8/- sterling $ 1.25 per annum or pro rata, postage paid.

Subscriptions may be paid at the following addresses:

Democratic Germany: At all post offices.

Britain: Collet's Subscription Dept, 40 Great Russell St., London W. C. 1

North and South America: National Guardian, 17 Murray St., New York 7, U. S. A.

Australasia: A. Keesing, G. P. O. Box No. 4886, Sydney, Australia

China: Guozi Shudian, 38 Suchou Hutung, Peking

Nigeria: Tenimasunwon, 6 Oroyinyin St., Lagos

All other communications should be addressed to:

Democratic German Report,
Friedrichstrasse 167/III,
Berlin W 8,
Germany.

All material in GERMAN REPORT may be freely reprinted. Voucher copies of reprints would be appreciated.

WEST GERMAN MERRY-GO-ROUND

Union Lawer Shot, Unionists Threatened

Unknown persons shot and killed a prominent trade union lawyer, Dr. Bernd Serve, in the street in Dusseldorf, British Zone, on January 8th.

"This murder is a signal for all trade unionists to close their ranks in opposition to the fascist developments in West Germany" the Dusseldorf Communist newspaper "Freies Volk" stated.

The right-wing organ of the West German Trade Union Federation, "Welt der Arbeit" was forced to admit on January 9th that industrialists and reactionary politicians were spending great sums on trying to break the influence of the trade unions, and were using fascist methods. "Former members of the nazi spionage service and similar organisations are going to be employed in the attack on trade union unity" the paper stated.

West German Minister of Justice Thomas Dehler threatened West German unionists with long prison terms if they used union weapons for political purposes. In a special announcement published on January 12th Minister Dehler stated: "Attempts to use the trade unions for political purposes are an attempt to put pressure upon parliament, and the Ministry of Justice has the duty of protecting parliament by imposing sentences of not less than five years hard labour."

"Youth Leader" was double murderer

The chief of the right-wing youth organisation "Federation of German Youth" in North Rhine Westphalia, British Zone, has been arrested by West German police and charged with a double murder committed in 1945.

The "youth leader," Alfred Heise, a former Hitler Youth officer, has confessed that he shot an anti-Hitler officer and a Polish slave labourer one month before the end of the war. The "Federation of German Youth" has received large subsidies from the American authorities, Coca Cola Ltd., and the Ford Foundation, and is the parent body of "Liquidation Ltd.," a murder gang which has prepared black lists of progressives due for "liquidation" on "X-day."

Millions for War Criminal

German arms king Friedrich Flick, a convicted war criminal, has had his entire coal and steel empire returned to him by the western allied High Commission.

In 1947 Flick was sent to prison for seven years by a U. S. court, presided over by Judge Charles B. Sears of New York, which had found him guilty of murdering slave workers and plundering countries occupied by the nazis.

All the Flick properties in East Germany have been nationalised and are working for the good of the whole population.

More Workless

170,000 West German workers lost their jobs during the last two weeks of December 1952, West German statistics show. This brought the total of completely unemployed in West Germany to 1,687,719, plus several million short time workers.

In East Germany there is no unemployment.

Americans Boast of Spying

A frank admission that the American authorities in West Germany are engaged in espionage against Czechoslovakia was made by the "New York Herald Tribune", Paris edition, on January 9th. An article from Nuremberg, signed by Robert Strand, stated:

"When a border crosser (from Czechoslovakia) surrenders or is caught by German guards, he is turned over to the American intelligence net for interrogation.

"If he is a former soldier the Military Intelligence Service will want to know who his former commander was, where his officers studied, the armament of his unit, and whatever they can learn about the deployment of Communist forces.

"If he is a worker, the Counter-Intelligence Corps and other American agencies will want him to make a diagram of his factory and will ask him about its equipment, production and supervisors.

"During the interrogation, which may last weeks, the intelligence agents provide the escaper with food, clothing, cigarettes and other things.",

Police Raid Communist Offices

The first two weeks of January were marked by almost daily raids by West German police on the offices of the Communist Party and various peace organisations.

On January 8th police searched Communist headquarters in Brunswick, seizing files and typewriters, and completely disorganising the work. On January 9th the same procedure was gone through in Dusseldorf.

On the same day West Berlin police and detectives broke into the offices of the Free German Trade Union Federation in Charlottenburg, British Sector, and searched the building.

During the same week more than 20 members of the peace movement were arrested in Recklinghausen, British Zone, and their houses were searched.

In Munich, American Zone, police raided an office which they alleged was the headquarters of the Free German Youth, which has been banned in West Germany.

Parliamentarians Confer With Dutch War Criminals

Members of the West German parliament have had conferences with some of the seven Dutch nazi war criminals, who escaped from the Dutch prison where they were serving life sentences and are now claiming "political asylum" in West Germany.

The criminals state that they were sentenced to prison for membership of the SS and that they are therefore political refugees and entitled to asylum in West Germany.

(British readers can best picture the situation by imagining that William Joyce, infamous as "Lord Haw-Haw," had been sentenced only to life imprisonment, had escaped to West Germany, and was now claiming immunity as a "political refugee.")

Military Police shoot peace propagandists

American military police opened fire on four Communists who were posting peace placards in the West German town of Weiden. Two of the peace propagandists were arrested, dragged to the military police barracks, and brutally beaten up.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

In these columns I have mentioned before the enormous thirst to learn in East Germany, and last week I had a chance to see something more of the adult education programme.

In a school building only one hundred yards from the brightly lighted building site on the Stalin Allee, where work goes on all round the clock, I found about sixty people of all ages waiting for me to give them a lecture on journalism in the western world.

Evening Lectures

The lecture was organised by the local education authorities, who run a series of weekly lectures which anyone can attend, and where they can hear addresses on subjects ranging from the latest medical theories to the practice of theatrical design.

Of course such lectures are a regular feature in many other parts of the world, and superficially even the audience might have been the audience which one finds at an evening class in a suburb of London. There was the usual sprinkling of old age pensioners who have come because it is warm, and bright. But in addition there were a number of people in their working clothes, who had just come from doing their voluntary shift, clearing away rubble on the Stalin Allee.

The difference became most apparent when the time came for questions. The tool-makers and engineers who, together with the teachers, made up the major part of the audience, asked questions which showed that they had thought long and very hard about the world around them. They wanted to know, not only what was wrong with the millionaire press, but what we could all do to help put things right.

They wanted to know why the standards of the millionaire papers have fallen even lower in the past few years, and above all they wanted to discuss what the real task of the press was, particularly in a new Socialist society such as they are building here.

Criticism was not only levelled at the western press, however. The newspapers in Democratic Germany came in for some hard words: they were boring, heavy, long-winded.

"That is all very true" said one of the participants in the discussion. "There is still a lot of room for improvement in our press. But don't forget that one of the reasons is that we purged all the nazis out of the newspaper business and now we are having to learn the hard way.

"And secondly, remember the compensating advantages. None of the papers here ever publish news stories or articles which are designed to make us despise any other nation, or to foster racial hatred. And no paper ever publishes sensational lies or half-truths designed to make us ready to attack any other nation. For that, I am ready to put up with leading articles two columns long."

"What's Phoney?"

As I was getting this copy of the paper ready for the printers, a reader walked into our office with a complaint. "Why do you use words which are not in the dictionary?" he asked plaintively.

It turned out that our visitor was an English language teacher in a Berlin school. For some months now he and his pupils have been using GERMAN REPORT to extend their knowledge of colloquial English.

Slang phrases had worried them now and then, but the straw which broke the camel's back had been "phoney".

How to Win Friends and Influence People

"On Tuesday evening the retiring American commandant in Berlin, General Mathewson, gave a reception. One of those attending was the Berlin representative of the Soviet Control Commission, Dengin. When Dengin arrived, the West Berlin police, on duty in front of the building, turned their backs."

"Tagesspiegel", West Berlin, December 31st 1952

"I cannot find it in the dictionaries, and nobody knows what it means," the teacher complained.

I was surprised myself to find, on referring to the "Pocket Oxford Dictionary" of 1942 that it was only quoted in the aggenda as "U. S. slang", and defined as "sham, counterfeit, fictitious."

But what worries me more than the fact that a word here and there may not be understandable to the high school students of the German Democratic Republic is the feeling that phrases and words in GERMAN REPORT may sometimes not be fully understandable to all readers overseas.

We write blithely away about "Activists" for instance, denounce the formation of a new "Wehrmacht' and the activities of the "SS", and use many other words which are not in most dictionaries. In addition, reading and talking German all the time entails the danger that Germanic phrases may creep into our sentences. Criticism or reassurance from readers on this point would be welcomed.

Slush and Socialism

Together with more than one million inhabitants of the Democratic Sector of Berlin, I have been cursing in the past few days about the inefficient snow clearance in the streets.

It has been snowing here fairly heavily for many days now, and the streets, according to the temperature, alternate between swamps and glaciers.

Snow clearance teams have been out, but they have been able to do little beyond keeping the main roads reasonably clear.

"This just shows you that Socialism is no good" said a visitor from West Berlin who dropped into my office the other day. "In West Berlin the streets are all kept wonderfully clear."

I was able to point out to him that it proved nothing of the sort. In West Berlin there are 300,000 unemployed, and every snowfall sees thousands of willing applicants lined up outside the street clearing depots, ready and anxious to earn a few extra pfennigs by a day of work.

In the Democratic Seetor, as throughout the German Democratic Republic, unemployment is a thing of the past, and there simply is not the reservoir of labour ready to go out and clear the streets.

This does not mean that the streets in a Socialist city must always be covered with snow, of course. It will not be long now before the factories of East Germany can also get round to making the necessary quantities of snow-clearing machinery. It will have to be machinery, because the armies of thousands of jobless snow sweepers have vanished for ever.

But for the meantime, while the factories are turning out tractors and pre-fabricated parts for houses, and machine tools, and all the other things which are more urgently needed, we shall just have to put up with skipping over the slush for a few days every year.

Edited and published fortnightly by John Peet, Democratic German Report, Friedrichstrasse 167/III Berlin W 8, Telephone: 22 62 68. Printed in Germany by (36). Veröffentlicht unter der Lizenz-Nr. 752 des Amtes für Information der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik.